Quality seeds to farmers

4002. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed with the recommendations of various commissions, research institutions regarding the need of 100 per cent replacement of seed for improving the quality and quantity of yields;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken therefor;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have made any financial provision to support the State Governments to supply the seeds of good quality to farmers; and

(e) if so, how much outlay is earmarked for Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Government have not received the recommendations of various commissions, research institutions for 100 per cent replacement of seeds.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Rs. 1640 lakh for implementation of various components including seeds under Technology Mission on Cotton and Rs. 5200 lakh for implementation of various components including seeds under Macro-Management of state work plan have been earmarked for Andhra Pradesh. About 30% of the allocation under Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) is earmarked for seed component. Assistance is also provided under Seed Village and Hybrid Rice components of the scheme Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Production and Distribution of Quality Seeds.

New policies of crop insurance

4003. SHRI S. K. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED:
SHRI NARESH GUJRAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going to introduce new policies of crop insurance in the wake of increasing cases of crop loss;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether such a scheme would not help in preventing suicides being committed by farmers all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Union Budget 2007-08 has announced the introduction of Weather (Rainfall) based Crop Insurance Scheme on pilot basis in 2-3 States. The scheme is proposed to be implemented on actuarial basis with an element of upfront subsidy in premium. This pilot scheme is proposed to be implemented initially in selected areas and crops of Karnataka and Maharashtra subject to availability of adequate rainfall data and consent of the concerned State. A budgetary provision of Rs. 100 crores has been announced in the Union Budget 2007-08 and the Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) will be the implementing agency for the proposed scheme.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Providing insurance protection against adverse weather conditions is considered an efficient risk mitigation tool. It is, therefore, expected that farmers would be compensated adequately for the crop loss due to unfavourable weather conditions. Suicides committed on account of financial distress may be prevented to a large extent.

Water logging in cultivable lands of Haryana

†4004. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that hundred acres of cultivated land in some villages, especially in the Lohgarh village under Sirsa district in Haryana is lying unutilized due to water logging and farmers are unable to grow crops due to this problem;

(b) if so, whether Government are providing any financial help to the farmers for the damage being caused to their crops for the last six-seven years and whether farmers would be given any compensation; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi